

8 February 1981

71

Unclassified Summary of Public Positions on INF

One British paper called for dual key, and another claimed the Vice President and UK officials would discuss accelerating deployment. West German and French media were relatively quiet on INF. (U)

UK

More than 60 women were arrested yesterday for forcibly entering Greenway Common, a planned GLCM basing site. In Newbury, Defense Secretary Heseltine, on his way to a speaking engagement, was briefly dragged down by female protestors.

The Sunday Times editorialized that Thatcher should "impress on the Vice President" the need for Washington to recognize the growing anti-nuclear sentiment in the UK. The paper recommended adoption of the dual key system in Britain as "one palliative" to mitigate this "growing disquiet."

MORI/CDF per C05167821

The Observer on Sunday carried an article datelined Washington which quoted "diplomatic sources" as saying that the Vice President will discuss with UK officials an accelerated timetable for deployment in Britain. The article added that he will confirm a package of US-UK nuclear agreements that will tie the UK closer to Washington's nuclear "war fighting" plans. (U)

West
Germany

Several newspapers, including the General Anzeiger (independent) and Die Welt (conservative), highlighted the Vice President's statements in Geneva that the zero option is not a "take it or leave it" proposal. Die Welt added that if Moscow wanted to be "constructive," it had to advance its "own proposal." (U)

France

The socialist Le Matin and the Communist l'Humanite yesterday both remarked on the flexibility of the US position on INF as reflected in the Vice President's statements in Geneva. Reuter from Paris reported that the visit to France is "unlikely to be a major challenge" because of Mitterrand's firm public support for INF. Reuter noted, however, that in private Mitterrand has expressed interest in an interim agreement. It also reported Cheysson's statement that "Moscow and Washington would agree to reduce the number of missiles in Europe," but said the Foreign Minister "could not predict what level of missiles on each side would be acceptable." (U)

Italy

The centrist Il Giorno noted that the talks between the Vice President and Italian leaders had made TASS's allegations of European criticism of the trip "sound very funny." The leftist Il Messaggero stated that "Italy and the US agree on the zero option but are open to any reasonable proposal." The conservative Il Tempo observed that "US negotiating flexibility was reaffirmed by the Vice President." (U)

USSR

A Pravda commentary on Sunday again attacked the US claim that NATO has no systems analogous to Moscow's intermediate-range missiles and charged that British and French missiles must be considered at Geneva. Reuter yesterday quoted General Chervov of the General Staff as saying "that Moscow would not budge from its position that British and French nuclear arsenals must be taken into account." (U)

EUR M 83-10058